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MUS 451.18: Major Performance Area IV - Voice

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VOICE LESSON SYLLABUS - STUDIO POLICY - MUS 451

Professor ANNE BASINSKI

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As a voice major, it's important to take your voice work seriously. A half-hour or hour per week is very little time for us to have, so you should see your lessons as giving you a plan for your own week's work.

To receive an A in voice, abide by the following!

- If you need to miss a lesson, please call me in advance. I have voice mail – you can leave me a message. If you miss more than one without calling me, your grade will drop. It's no problem to cancel if you're sick; just let me know. Half hour lessons start at :00 or :30, right on the dot. Those of you with HOUR lessons, come ten minutes past the hour, just like classes (9:10 or 9:40...). This allows me to make phone calls and get distractions out of the way, and therefore give you my full concentration during your lesson. Spend that ten minutes vocalizing or looking over your music.
- Across the hall from the music office is the Voice Area Bulletin Board. Look there for information concerning area policies, procedures, master classes, jury lists and auditions. You are responsible for checking this board and abiding by the policies you find there.
- Have an accompanist by your third lesson. It is up to you to tell your accompanist about changed or canceled lessons, and any extra sessions. Plan to practice with your accompanist at least once a week outside your lesson. There are professional accompanists available for pay, or check the piano board for a list of student accompanists.
- **Plan a practice hour** in your schedule at least 5 days a week. Schedule it like a class and be there every time. This hour can be used in working on specific technique, studying music, or rehearsing with your accompanist, for example.
- **Bring a tape or mini-disc to each lesson.** Just buy several and keep them in your locker, because if you forget your tape your lesson may be cancelled.
- **Come to lessons prepared** – we will set goals and tasks for you during the week, and you will be responsible for getting those done. You need to learn your notes and rhythms outside of the lesson. 451 demands a larger amount of repertoire, which also demands greater musical and technical sophistication than 351.
- You must perform as a soloist in front of an audience at least once per semester. This can be in master class, on student recital, at a religious service (as long as your name is in the bulletin), or at NATS, or a senior recital.
- For upperclassmen – many of you will want to do recitals. This is a very big, exciting project, and to help you the Voice Area has certain guidelines established. For example, you must pass a recital hearing before you are approved to perform. See the V. A. Bulletin Board for more information. Performance majors (B.M.) are required to do either a full senior recital or a half junior recital (shared) and a half senior recital.
- **You must attend concerts, especially vocal events.** Obviously you will be performing in several of them yourself, but you also need to support your fellow singers in their efforts, and learn from observing them. So much hard work deserves an audience, and you will want your friends and fellow-students to come see your things – so you will want to show that courtesy to them.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by course instructor and /or a disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>.